

HISTORY OF ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The history of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College began on November 23, 1906 when delegations from Albany, Camilla, Pelham, Tifton, and Ashburn met in Albany to submit bids for a district agricultural high school.

Tift County's delegation went to Albany with 30 representatives. This small party included H.H. Tift, who is recognized as the founder of Tifton. The party went with \$32,000, raised by individual subscriptions from the people of Tift County, to secure the location of the Agricultural School for the Second Congressional District, to be decided upon by the Board of Trustees. The Tifton Gazette reported the meeting as follows:

"Soon after the opening of the afternoon session, at 3 o'clock, the bids were submitted, the counties being called in alphabetical order.

"Dougherty came first with an offer of \$20,000, 200 acres of land, an artesian well and free lights and water for ten years.

"Camilla offered to raise \$51,000 in cash, donate 300 acres of land, buildings and timber estimated at \$4,000 and free lights and water for five years.

"Pelham offered a choice of several fine tracts of land, free lights and water and a certified check for \$19,000. The clerk that read Pelham's first offer erroneously read its cash contribution as \$100,000. This brought both wide eyes and gasps from both the general congregation and Pelham's own delegation.

"Tift County's offer was 315 acres of land lying along the Georgia Southern and Florida right-of-way which was one mile north of town, and \$30,000 in cash. This offer was signed by 28 names of the Tift County delegation, citizens worth an aggregate of \$10 million.

"Ashburn's offer was 250 acres of land, lights and water for five years and \$45,000 in

cash.

"When he rose to fill five minutes of the time allotted Tift County, Mr. Tift presented an amended bid of \$55,000 in cash, free lights and water and telephone service for 10 years, a sewage system and 315 acres of land worth \$50 per acre. Later, learning that the timber on the land was desired for forestry study, he contributed this also, it being valued at \$4,500. The raise of \$25,000 at a jump caused the audience to catch its breath.

"After the committee went into executive session, Pelham's bid was raised to \$32,500 in cash, Camilla's bid to \$58,000 in cash, and Ashburn's bid to \$60,000 in cash.

"Mr. Tift gave out of his own pocket, having subscribed \$6,500 before going to Albany, a total of \$36,400 in cash, the land, \$4,500 worth of timber, and a portion of the light and water offer. It was estimated in the committee room that Tifton's offer now netted \$95,700. Mr. J.L. Phillips gave the phone service.

"Mr. Tift was willing, out of his own means, to again raise Tifton's bid, but the committee did not think it just for him to do so.

"After the financial question was settled, it was a tug of war between the personal influence of Mr. Tift and Mr. Hand (from Pelham), and in the end, when Tifton's progressiveness, excellent record and prohibition were thrown into the balance, they (the Tifton delegation) won the fight, the high moral integrity of Tift County and her citizenship being the deciding straw.

"Inside the committee room, Tifton led every ballot, and in the fifth had eight, while Pelham reached seven, its high-water mark. Finally, in the eighth, Tifton received eleven, one more than necessary."

The Tifton Gazette proclaimed "The Hallelujah Day Has Come, Tifton Lands the A&M

School.” And thus was born what today has become a unique center of learning - Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Construction of the facility on the 315 acres given by Captain Tift was to continue for the next year, while the board went about appointing a faculty for the school and determining a method of selecting students to attend the first session.

Then, on February 20, 1908, the Second District A & M School opened for its first classes which were filled with 27 students. Only boys were allowed to board during the first term, but girls in the surrounding Tiftarea attended classes. Opening day was declared a holiday by Tifton. Stores and the public school were closed. A special train was run from Tifton to the school, and some 1,200 people attended.

Built on the campus were two fine dormitories (Herring Hall and Lewis Hall) and an academic building (Tift Hall). During the construction of these buildings, the contractors built a long, narrow building to store tools. This building was used as a dining hall until 1910, when it was replaced with a large wooden dining hall.

Professor W.W. Driskell was chosen as the first principal and served until June, 1909. He was succeeded by Professor W.G. Acree, who served for one year. After Acree, Professor Samuel L. Lewis served two years as principal and was succeeded by Professor Jack Hart, who served as president until June, 1914.

In September, 1914, Lewis again was elected president and served until June, 1924.

Among the first students were many illustrious Georgians who milked cows, cooked, tended farms and worked in various ways to finance their education.

These were the days when an education at the high school level in rural America provided the beginning of the realization of many dreams. Great numbers of A&M alumni have

succeeded in fields of medicine, public office, business and commerce, as well as in farming.

The first class to graduate from the new school did so on June 14, 1910. The members were Joel Davis and Maude Paulk of Tift County and Charles Hinson of Grady County.

With the improvement of high school education in the rural areas, the need for maintaining district high schools decreased. For years it had been felt that a senior state college for men was needed in the southern part of Georgia.

Through the influence of R.C. Ellis in the House and John Adams in the Senate, a bill creating the South Georgia A & M College was passed in 1924. The Second District A & M School was renamed the South Georgia A & M College and began the gradual transition from high school to college work. It was a four-year school. Lewis continued as president until 1929.

Another name change, which indicated the growth and broadening of the institution, occurred in 1929 when it became the Georgia State College for Men. Frank G. Branch was its first and only president, serving from 1929-1933.

The college had two divisions: Liberal Arts and Sciences, leading to the A.B. and B.S. degrees and the Division of Agriculture, leading to a B.S. in Agriculture. Candidates for either degree could major in commerce or in education as well as in the liberal arts or sciences.

During its brief four years, GSCM made much progress. It grew in student enrollment from 101 with a graduating class of six in 1929 to 345 with 33 seniors in 1932. The college was admitted to the Georgia Association of Colleges in 1932, receiving unqualified endorsement from the newly established Board of Regents to place it in definite relation to the other branches of the University System under the direction of the Chancellor.

Two publications, "The Rambler," the college yearbook, and the "Ram's Horn," the semi-monthly college paper, added to the new life of student activities. There were five

fraternities and two sororities established on campus. In sports, Coach Orion Mitchell's football team won for themselves the title of "Fighting Rams" as they accumulated a score of 205 points to opponents' 45 in 1932. The basketball team came out with a respectable 75 percent win average.

On October 16, 1931, the Georgia State College for Men football team defeated the University of Miami 13-12. An Associated Press story about the game ran in the Oct. 17 edition of the Tifton Gazette. According to that account, Miami went in front on a touchdown run in the second quarter. Down 6-0, the Rams of GSCM took the lead when Mike Donehon intercepted a pass and ran 70 yards for a touchdown.

Still in the second quarter, the Rams expanded the lead when Sherman England blocked a punt on the Hurricanes' 2 yard line and recovered it in the end zone for another touchdown. Miami had a 13-yard TD run in the third period but GSCM was able to hold on for the victory. Coach Mitchell was the head coach for the GSCM team. Other teams on the schedule that season included Oglethorpe College and Fort Benning.

The depression years brought financial troubles to many of the old "district" schools and, in 1933 Governor Eugene Talmadge granted the newly formed Board of Regents of the University System "power to consolidate, suspend, or discontinue institutions, and merge departments."

Dr. Phillip Weltner, then Chancellor of the University System, had said that in deciding what to do about the college at Tifton that several things were apparent: here was a community vitally interested in having a college, here was a section of the state with agricultural problems particular to its own geography, and here in the guise of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station was a ready-made laboratory for agricultural classes.

Consequently, Georgia State College For Men was changed to a two-year college stressing agriculture and home economics, and the name was changed to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to pay honor to the first president of the University of Georgia and a Georgia signer of the U.S. Constitution. The change in college status was somewhat of a shock to the people of Tifton who were justly proud of the four-year college. However, as they had always done, as soon as the objectives of the college became known, the citizens rallied to its support and have been to a large measure responsible for its success.

The first president of the two-year college was Dr. J.G. Woodroof, who served as president from 1933-34. The enrollment at the time was 99. A year later, Dr. Woodroof was succeeded by Dr. George H. King, who served as president from 1934 until 1947.

During his 13-year tenure, student enrollment increased from 188 in 1934-1935 to 468 in 1947. The later class contained an overflow unit of 150 male students (including many veterans from World War II) located at Spence Field in Moultrie. Paul Gaines, who later became the ABAC Registrar, helped to guide the students at Spence Field.

President King had also been serving as director of the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station since 1942, and now the expanding of the Experiment Station required his fulltime leadership. The Regents placed the Station under the University of Georgia. In 1940, Tom Cordell was named dean and director of adult education. In 1947, the Regents named George P. Donaldson president of ABAC.

During the next 14 years, ABAC grew rapidly in student enrollment, faculty personnel and physical plant. The 616 students enrolled in 1961 showed a marked increase from the 468 in 1947. Through the help of the state administration and the Board of Regents, the physical plant was enlarged to accommodate these students. The additions from 1948-53 included a dormitory

for girls (Creswell Hall), a modern shop building (AET), a new science building (Gray Hall), an adequate water system, and a new central heating system to replace the old potbelly stoves located in each room. The college also received a special allotment for the purchase of 109.6 acres of farm land during this period.

In December 1953, the college was admitted to the Southern Association of College and Secondary Schools. This recognition permitted Baldwin graduates to transfer to other colleges in the nation and in foreign countries without losing credits. The Board of Regents again granted permission for broadening the courses of instruction. Added this time was a Secretarial Science Department and a course in Farm Equipment Sales and Service. The Farm Equipment course was offered at only seven colleges in the United States.

During the next three years a modern Home Management House (Moore Building) was built on campus and the auditorium and gymnasium (Howard, Thrash) were remodeled. Construction began on an annex to Weltner Hall and a Rural Life Building, which was located on the site now occupied by the Carlton Center. The Rural Life Building was provided through the Governor's Emergency Fund.

President Donaldson also formed the first fundraising arm of the college in 1954, the Greater Baldwin Foundation. He wanted a way for businessmen to donate money to provide typewriters for the college secretarial science program.

At the anniversary celebrated in 1958, all these evidences of growth were observed. The enrollment that year was 492, the largest in 50 years. A favorite gathering place for students was the Log Cabin. Students could dance and listen to music.

The Short Course Program, begun in 1940 under the direction of Cordell, continued to grow in pace with the college. By 1958 over 55,000 people had attended the more than 50 short

courses offered each year.

In the fall of 1960 Baldwin College was approved to be the first junior college in the state to offer Distributive Education courses through the Business Administration Division. The addition of this program was one more accomplishment by "Mr. Pete" before he retired in 1961.

Dr. J. Wilson Comer became president of Baldwin in July, 1961. Dr. Comer continued as president until his untimely death in December, 1963. During his administration, Dr. Comer reorganized the college into formal academic and administrative divisions to provide for growth and efficiency as the impact of the "population explosion" swelled.

Innovations to improve communications included a weekly administrative bulletin (now known as the *FOCUS*), publication of a student handbook, a faculty-staff social committee, a unit of GEA, and a women's group---the "Dames Club." For the first time academic regalia was worn at Commencement.

Several new buildings that were being constructed as "Mr. Pete" retired were accepted including the Baldwin Memorial Library, the dining hall, and a new men's dormitory (Comer Hall). Plans were also initiated for several other buildings.

Of great importance to President Comer were his plans for the Self-Study (for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) that would allow ABAC to expand its growth with fine quality instruction. Committees were appointed and had begun work during his lifetime. Dr. Comer believed in a beautiful environment for faculty and students. A horticulturist himself, he initiated plans for a college nursery and greenhouses.

One of his more modern innovations at ABAC was the installation of data processing equipment which served as the foundation for a Center for Automation. By the time of his death in December, 1963, Dr. Comer had envisioned the enlarging role ABAC should play as the

unique college of all the units within the University System.

Dean Tom Cordell was appointed Acting President by the Board of Regents. During his interim until August, 1964, he continued to hold fast to the growth and development ABAC was experiencing. By the time Dr. J. Clyde Driggers reported for duty as the new President, the Self-Study was well underway and the addition to the Science and Classroom Building (Britt Hall), the Infirmary and the new gym (Gressette) were approved.

President Driggers was a dynamic leader who led the college to greater recognition, not only nationally but internationally. His leadership sparked the college into becoming Georgia's largest residential junior college with 2,143 students in 1972 and increased the college physical plant value to more than \$13 million.

Soon after taking office, President Driggers refined the organizational structure of the college to fulfill many emerging needs. Four mid-level administrators started reporting directly to the President. An Advisory Council to the President gave opportunity monthly to all faculty and staff for representative views.

Faculty and staff committees became more active in making plans for the various functions of the college. An Academic Assembly was formed to provide a formal voice for recommending ideas for growth and development. The Student Government Association and the Student Judiciary became realities as well. All in all, the administrative and academic structure for students, faculty, and staff solidified into an active, workable organization.

Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1965 brought great satisfaction; yet it pointed out the need for continued study in order to keep abreast of new developments in the various fields of study. Consequently the majority of the faculty and some of the staff took advantage of leaves-of-absence or in-service training. Many faculty members

now held doctorate degrees or had several months formal study in their respective fields at various universities in Georgia and abroad.

All six of the academic divisions expanded curriculums but of special interest was the growth of the Law Enforcement, Social Work, Horticulture, Wildlife, Music, Art, Secretarial, Home Economics, Data Processing, and Nursing Education programs, the latter of which guaranteed an automatic commission in the U.S. Air Force or Army. In Adult Education and Public Services, the short course program was adapted to include night study for non-credit and credit. The Police Academy, established in 1970, continued to give immeasurable service to the State in the training of officers already in service for surrounding communities.

The physical plant also expanded during the 1970s. Several new dormitories were built (Mitchell, Branch, Fulwood, Chandler), several classroom buildings (Bowen, Conger), the Student Center (Branch Student Center), and the Chapel of All Faiths, also called the Driggers Lecture Hall. The building of the Chapel was quite an undertaking. President Driggers even wrote a book about it, "It Took A Miracle." The book detailed the many trials and tribulations the college went through to secure private funding. Driggers also hired the college's first full time Director of Public Relations, former student body president Tyron Spearman. President Driggers passed away in 1975.

Dr. Stanley Anderson became president in 1975 and retired in 1985. Through his leadership, the college again greatly expanded its facilities and programs. During Anderson's first quarter at ABAC, the college experienced its largest enrollment to that date with 2,658 students.

Among his primary accomplishments at ABAC were the pursuit of academic excellence and the emphasis on quality education. Another area which Anderson touched was the

beautification of the campus. He was responsible for the construction of the Baldwin Memorial Gardens which included a Gazebo. He actually planted many of the original flowers in the Gardens himself.

The Yow Building (Forestry/Wildlife) opened in 1980. The building was named for Vernon Yow, a longtime Professor of Forestry and a former Dean of Men. The 1980s also marked a significant achievement for the paving plans -- all student and faculty parking lots were blacktopped. Under the leadership of advisor Helen Strickland, the student newspaper called "The Stallion" also gained tremendous attention for the college, being named the top junior college paper in the state for many years.

ABAC won its first national championship in any sport in 1984 when Coach Norman "Red" Hill and his team captured the National Junior College Athletic Association men's tennis title. Dr. Anderson also placed much emphasis on ABAC's Development, Public Relations and Alumni programs. Melvin Merrill was hired as the Director of Development in 1978, Mike Chason as the Director of Public Relations in 1979 and Nancy Coleman as Director of Alumni Relations in 1984.

When Dr. Anderson retired, Academic Dean Frank Thomas served as interim president from January 1 through March 31, 1986.

President Wayne Curtis came to Abraham Baldwin on April 1, 1986. He brought his business school savvy along with him which sparked an aggressive marketing strategy for the college. He commissioned an image study designed to determine how the institution was perceived by various factions. Students, faculty, staff, employers of graduates, high school counselors, and area citizens participated in the study. From this study, a new marketing and promotional strategy was developed for the institution. New brochures and student search pieces

were developed. A toll-free number for prospective students was established. A direct mail campaign was also developed that was based upon interest surveys purchased from SAT and ACT lists.

A strategic plan was also developed during the Curtis era. For the first time in ABAC's history, the goals and objectives of the college were written down. They were prioritized and a means for achieving them developed. President Curtis also started the Enrichment Program. It began as an effort to attract youth to the campus, particularly during the summer. Evening and off-campus programs were also emphasized. Dr. Curtis also established the ABAC Ambassadors' program.

The ABAC Incentive Program was also developed during this time. When the program was initiated, it received widespread publicity; articles were written in "USA Today" and the "Chronicle of Higher Education." Over 600 students received help from this program. The program provided free tuition donated by the ABAC Foundation for one course for individuals who have not attended college within the past five years and have no more than 40 college quarter hours. They must also have been out of high school for at least five years. Dr. Curtis resigned, effective June 30, 1988, to become president of a bank in Alabama.

Dr. James A. Burran, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, served the college as Acting President from July 1, 1988 through September 30, 1989. Under his leadership, the momentum began during Dr. Curtis' tenure continued. Enrollment continued to increase and two new programs, Turfgrass Equipment Management and Golf Course Management, were introduced. During his tenure as Acting President, Dr. Burran also continued to strengthen the link between the college and the community. Burran was later selected as President of Dalton State College.

Dr. Harold J. Loyd was named President of Abraham Baldwin effective October 1, 1989. This was the first time since Dr. George P. Donaldson was named President in 1947 that someone from within the ranks of the faculty was selected to serve as President. The faculty and staff were quite enthusiastic with the selection. Dr. Loyd first joined the faculty in 1971 and was named Chairman of the Division of Business Administration in 1975. He also served as the Coordinator of Evening and Off-Campus Courses from 1986 until he took over as President. Dr. Loyd brought to the office of President an enthusiasm and a "love for ABAC" that few presidents could match.

Under his leadership the marketing strategy for the college continued and broadened. Enrollment continued to increase for 22 consecutive quarters until the summer of '93. Dr. Loyd believed that ABAC's customers--the students--were the V.I.P.'s on campus, and he believed in the special spirit that exists at Abraham Baldwin. He continued to promote that special spirit and the friendliness that exists between the faculty, staff, and students to the day he retired on July 31, 2000.

During his time as president, Dr. Loyd established a much needed Job Placement Center within the office of Counseling and Testing. Two external degree programs were approved for the Moultrie Center, and four-year degrees and graduate degrees were offered for the first time on the ABAC campus by nearby universities. Under his direction, the Strategic Vision for the college was updated, and Dr. Loyd accepted the challenge to communicate the vision of the college as embodied in the plan to all aspects of the college and to all of those who it serves.

The college took a tremendous jump in enrollment during Dr. Loyd's tenure, reaching an alltime high of 2,851 in the 1992 fall quarter. Enrollment declined slightly with the start of the semester system in 1998, but then began climbing again. Many new faculty, staff, and

administrative positions were established.

Dr. Loyd also gave new life to the ABAC Foundation as he spent many hours talking to friends and alumni of the college about opportunities to set up scholarships. Membership in the Foundation's President's Club climbed at a rapid rate.

Dr. Loyd's 1994 endeavor was a fundraising campaign for a building in Moultrie to house Moultrie classes. The campaign was a great success, raising over \$220,000. The renovated building in Moultrie opened for classes during the 1997 spring term. The college actually began offering classes in Moultrie in 1987 at Moultrie Tech and the Moultrie Library. Longtime history professor and Moultrie Coordinator Merle Baker was instrumental in helping to secure funding for the new building as well as Melvin Merrill. This new building increased enrollment in Moultrie significantly. It is called ABAC on the Square.

Dr. Loyd also authorized two additional staff members in the admissions office to serve as recruiters in north Georgia and additional funds for a parttime recruiter in south Georgia. Under his leadership, ABAC gained two new majors, hospitality management and poultry technology. The college also offered courses in golf and grounds management at Sea Island on the Georgia coast. It was called ABAC on the Island.

Coach Hill won another national championship in men's tennis for ABAC in 1999 when his team captured the national crown on Hill's last day at ABAC before retirement. The college also won three national championships in women's slow pitch softball under the direction of three different coaches, Ellen Vickers (1993), Greg Tanner (1995), and Donna Campbell (1996).

When Dr. Loyd retired, ABAC came under the direction of Interim President Homer Day from August 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. Dr. Day joined the college staff in 1972 and served in a variety of roles, including Director of Financial Aid and Director of College Services. He served

the college admirably. On his last day before retirement, he spent the day working in the fields on the J.G. Woodroof Farm.

Michael F.Vollmer became the ninth president in the history of ABAC on July 1, 2001. He was a Pennsylvania native who was graduated from Greensboro (N.C.) College. He received his law degree from John Marshall Law School in Atlanta.

Vollmer had served in state government for the previous 20 years. He was the first executive director of the HOPE Scholarship Program and the first executive director of the Pre-Kindergarten Program. Prior to taking over the ABAC presidency, Vollmer served as the director of the Office of Educational Accountability.

President Vollmer was a true visionary. He mapped out plans for new buildings at the college, including a new Ag Sciences building, a new nursing building, and the Pedestrian Mall. He also envisioned an enrollment increase for the college and bringing more four-year programs to the campus.

Vollmer's first year as president was a very active one. The college opened the new Environmental Horticulture Building on August 15, 2001, and broke ground on the \$7.1 million Ag Sciences building on April 6, 2002. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia also agreed to put Tift, Lewis, and Herring halls on the renovation list for a \$10 million renovation project at some point in the future. The college also received the \$1 million Forest Lakes Golf Club as a gift from Tifton ophthalmologist Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra, in January, 2002.

Vollmer also pushed hard for four-year degrees to be offered on campus. As a result, Valdosta State offered the junior classes, senior classes, and graduate classes necessary to obtain an undergraduate and graduate degree in education, Macon State offered the junior and senior level classes necessary to obtain a B.S. in information technology, and Georgia Southwestern offered all classes necessary to obtain a bachelor's degree in either accounting or management.

Beginning in the fall of 2003, the University of Georgia began offering all junior and senior level classes necessary to obtain a four-year degree in Agri-science and environmental systems in Tifton. In the spring of 2004, UGA began offering all junior and senior level classes necessary for an Ag education degree in Tifton, and in August of 2005, UGA began offering all graduate classes leading to a master's degree in Ag Leadership. Albany State also offered the classes necessary to obtain a master's degree in business administration.

In Vollmer's second year, the college had a "concrete cracking" to signal the beginning of the construction of the \$1.5 million Pedestrian Mall on August 5, 2002, and cut the ribbon to open the \$1 million Red Hill Athletic Center on August 27, 2002. Vollmer also drew up plans for a Health Sciences Building on the campus.

ABAC also celebrated its 3000th student with a celebration on the front steps of Tift Hall on September 12, 2002. Mande Smith was the 3000th student at ABAC. The college opened the first phase of the Pedestrian Mall at Homecoming on April 5, 2003. In year two of Vollmer's presidency, the college experienced its largest spring term enrollment, largest summer term enrollment, and began instituting a Maymester.

In Vollmer's third year, ABAC opened Phase Two of the Pedestrian Mall on October 14, 2003, with Chancellor Thomas Meredith cutting the ribbon. The college also experienced its highest enrollment ever with 3,407 students during the 2003 fall term.

Vollmer also instigated the idea for a new campus sign system and helped to secure funding for two electronic signs which were turned on for the first time on November 5, 2003. The first phase of the new campus outdoor signs was installed July 14, 2004.

Vollmer and the ABAC Foundation developed the idea for the \$32 million ABAC Place apartments. All 835 students housed in the 14-acre complex have private rooms. The first phase opened on January 9, 2004. Vollmer drove a bulldozer to break ground for ABAC Place on June 23, 2003. The official grand opening for ABAC Place was held on September 23, 2004, with a

speech by Chancellor Meredith. Ironically, the opening came after Vollmer left ABAC to become Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education on September 15, 2004. At the opening, Meredith dedicated the John Hunt Town Center at ABAC Place in honor of ABAC alumnus and Board of Regents member John Hunt, who passed away in 2003. His wife, Julie, also an ABAC alumnus, took his place on the Board of Regents.

During his tenure, Vollmer also drove a backhoe to start the demolition of Chandler Hall on January 27, 2004. On the same day Chancellor Meredith cut the ribbon to officially open the new Ag Sciences Building. On February 18, 2004, ABAC celebrated its 400th student during any one semester at ABAC on the Square in Moultrie, Stephanie Withrow. The event was coordinated by ABAC on the Square Director Kay Powell.

The college also kicked off Phase Three of the Pedestrian Mall project at Homecoming on April 3, 2004. The “glass-breaking” for the new Health Sciences Building was held on September 1, 2004. The “glass-breaking” involved Tift Regional Medical Center CEO Bill Richardson using a backhoe to crash through a window at the Moore Building, which was demolished along with Creswell Hall to make way for the new Health Sciences Building. Tift Regional committed \$1 million to the project.

On August 1, 2004, ABAC privatized its physical plant by contracting with SODEXHO. The company took over all grounds maintenance, custodial, and physical plant duties.

Vollmer will be long remembered as an ABAC President who accomplished a great deal in a relatively short period of time.

Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services Tom Call was named Interim President of ABAC, beginning Sept. 15, 2004. He joined ABAC as a faculty member in the Division of Agriculture and Forest Resources in 1981. He entered the administrative ranks as the ABAC Registrar in 1996.

Call spoke at the dedication ceremony for the Steinway Grand Piano donated by the

Stafford Foundation on September 21, 2004. He was also the featured speaker at the Sunbelt Expo Exhibitors' Luncheon on October 19, 2004. ABAC was the featured exhibitor at the 2004 Expo and was honored for developing the farm show on its campus in the mid 60's.

A new phone system went into effect at ABAC on November 16, 2004. Dr. Chrystle Ross, Executive Director of the Office of Information Technology, was the key person in the changeover from regular phone lines to Voice Over Internet Protocol.

In November, 2004, Call officially requested State College status for ABAC, paving the way for the college to offer four-year degrees of its own in Diversified Agriculture and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management. The University System gave ABAC approval to continue to develop its plans for State College status in April, 2005 but did not give the official sanction for State College status until May 16, 2006.

Fulwood Hall, Mitchell Hall, and Branch Hall were razed in the fall of 2004. Creswell Hall and the Moore Building were razed in the winter and spring of 2005 to make way for the Health Sciences Building. ABAC brought back golf to the athletics' program after a 10-year absence in the fall of 2005 with Herb Hendrix as coach.

A Board of Regents' study showed ABAC had an overall \$110 million annual impact on the south Georgia area in January, 2005. Construction on the Health Sciences Building began in February, 2005. Sodexo replaced Aramark as the ABAC food services provider on July 1, 2005.

The college experienced another all time enrollment record in the fall of 2005 with 3,423 students from 149 Georgia counties, 16 other states, and 17 countries. Call issued a charge to the college's first ever 100th birthday celebration committee on December 1, 2005 with Public Relations Director Mike Chason as chair.

On Nov. 30, 2005, Interim Chancellor Corliss Cummings charged the ABAC Presidential Search and Screening Committee with the task of finding ABAC a new president. Alumnus

William Bowen, Jr., chaired the committee.

The Master Plan for ABAC was approved by the Board of Regents after a presentation by Interim President Call and Master Plan Committee Chair Mike Chason on Jan. 10, 2006. The plan called for extensive changes to the physical face of the campus including a new Perimeter Road and moving the Physical Plant facility.

Governor Sonny Perdue was the guest speaker at the spring graduation ceremony on May 9, 2006.

After months of searching and interviews, the Board of Regents named Dr. David C. Bridges as ABAC's 10th president on May 11, 2006. Bridges became the first alumnus ever to serve as president. The Parrott native was a member of the Class of 1978. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Auburn University and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He spoke to an enthusiastic ABAC crowd on the front steps of Tift Hall on the afternoon of May 11, 2006. His wife, Kim, is also an ABAC alumnus. In fact, they met in Rosalyn Donaldson's English class on the ABAC campus.

Trisha Yearwood performed for over 1,800 patrons at the largest Dollars for ABAC Scholars event in its history on May 12, 2006. Yearwood's father, Jack, was an ABAC alumnus. Assistant Development Director Betty McCorvey coordinated the event.

President-Elect Bridges and Interim President Call returned to the front porch of Tift Hall on May 17, 2006 for a celebration party when ABAC was named a State College by the Board of Regents. The announcement actually came at 2:03 p.m. on May 16, 2006 at the Regents meeting in Atlanta. Interim President Call was in Atlanta for the historic announcement.

Call walked out of the president's office into retirement on June 30, 2006. He became the longest serving interim president in ABAC's history.

Bridges' first official day on the job was July 1, 2006. He became the first ABAC president to be formally inaugurated in an impressive ceremony on Aug. 25, 2006 in Gressette

Gym. The ceremony attracted presidents and representatives from 17 other colleges and universities. Bridges called it “a day I will never forget.”

During his first year as president, Bridges evaluated every area of the college and set the stage for many changes. He announced a record enrollment at his first day of class press conference on August 21, 2006 of 3,574 students from 10 states, 11 countries, and 153 Georgia counties. He kicked a soccer ball into the net at the E.B. Hamilton Complex on August 26, 2006 to signal the opening of the first ever women’s intercollegiate soccer season at ABAC. Under the direction of Coach Jimmy Ballenger, the Fillies recorded a first year record of 9-5-1.

Bridges was the keynote speaker when ABAC opened the \$7.2 million Health Sciences building on September 20, 2006. Tift Regional Medical Center provided \$1 million toward the construction of the building which involved a public-private partnership with the ABAC Foundation.

For the first time ever WALB News from Albany broadcast its evening newscast live on the ABAC campus on October 5, 2006. On October 23, 2006, Bridges and ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Ruth Raines pushed a plunger to set off a small charge of dynamite to signal the groundbreaking on the ABAC Lakeside apartments project on the north shore of Lake Baldwin.

On October 30, 2006, the groundbreaking ceremony for the soccer field/intramural fields project was held. A helicopter loaded with soccer balls flew over the ABAC intramural field and Public Relations Administrative Associate Pam Leonard pushed out the balls to signal the beginning of the groundbreaking on the \$1 million first phase of the project.

Under the direction of Coach Todd Sheppard, the men’s basketball team at ABAC won the most games in the history of the program during the 2006-2007 season with a record of 27-5.

ABAC kicked off its 100th birthday celebration at the Homecoming luncheon on March 31, 2007 with a parade of students holding lighted birthday cakes and a short play which told the

story of the bidding ceremony for the A&M School. Alumni Director Nancy Coleman coordinated the event.

Alumnus George T. Smith was the guest speaker at the spring graduation ceremony on May 4, 2007. Smith (Class of 1940) is the only Georgian to ever be elected to all three branches of state government. He is a former Speaker of the House, Lt. Governor, and Supreme Court Justice. Smith was also selected for the Board of Regents Hall of Fame on March 3, 2006.

On June 19, 2007, the president's office moved out of Tift Hall for the first time in the history of ABAC. The president's office, public relations office and fiscal affairs office relocated to Evans Hall, the former health center. Tift Hall was closed on July 25 when procurement became the last office to move out of the building. Tift, Lewis, and Herring are now awaiting rehabilitation.

Dr. Niles Reddick became the vice president for academic affairs at ABAC on July 1, 2007 after the retirement of Dr. Caroline Helms. Dr. Bridges named him to the President's Cabinet along with Dr. Gail Dillard, vice president for student affairs; John Clemens, vice president for fiscal affairs, and Dr. Chrystle Ross, Chief Information Officer.

On July 1, 2007, ABAC took over management of the ABAC Place apartments from Place Properties. Director of Residence Life Bernice Hughes and her staff now direct all housing on the campus, including the new ABAC Lakeside complex.

The ABAC Jazz Band toured Europe in July, 2007 and actually played at the opening of the Tour de France bike race. Don Coates directed the band and coordinated the trip.

Classes opened for the 2007 fall term on August 20, 2007 with another all time enrollment record of 3,665 students from 154 Georgia counties, nine countries and 14 states.. Bridges said in his first day of class press conference that the college also had a record number of students living on campus, almost 1,300 with the opening of ABAC Lakeside.

The dedication ceremony for the new soccer field was held on August 28 when the Fillies

cut the ribbon on a gorgeous new field on the ABAC campus. The team then defeated Georgia Military College 3-0 in the first home game ever for women's soccer at ABAC.

One hundred green-and-gold balloons fell from the ceiling of the Grand Lobby of ABAC Lakeside on September 10, 2007 when President Bridges pulled the rope, signifying the opening of the \$17 million complex which features rooms for 489 students. Ruth Raines, chair of the ABAC Foundation, spoke on behalf of the Foundation, which again provided the funding for the project.

The 100th birthday celebration continued throughout the fall semester with a special ceremony at the ABAC Sunbelt Expo exhibit on October 17, 2007. As an extra added attraction to the celebration, ABAC was named the 10th best community college in the nation in a poll by the Washington Monthly Magazine. The associate degree Turfgrass Management program was rated seventh in the nation in another poll by "Turfnet Magazine," and the new four-year degree turfgrass program was rated 26th in the nation without a single class being taught.

President Bridges announced his Second Century Project in a Town Hall meeting in the Health Sciences Building on November 13, 2007. He outlined a plan for the college to grow and prosper in its second century of service and established a goal for ABAC to become "Georgia's State College of Choice." Mike Chason and Ali Csinos were the emcees for the first ever iMovie Festival on Nov. 8, 2007 in Howard Auditorium.

Dr. Tim Marshall, chair of the Division of Agriculture and Forest Resources, cut the ribbon on January 7, 2008 to signal the first day of class for the brand new bachelor's degrees in diversified agriculture and turfgrass and golf course management. Dr. Renata Elad taught the first class.

The final days leading up to the Centennial Celebration of ABAC passed in a blur. Mike Chason, chair of the 100th birthday celebration committee, met with the group for the final time on Jan. 8, 2008. Through the assistance of committee members and particularly the help of

Public Relations Assistant Ashley Williamson and Executive Assistant to the President Pam Leonard, the details were hammered into place.

President Bridges made special arrangements for an entire ABAC contingent to travel to Atlanta on February 14, 2008 to meet with legislators at the state capitol. Senator Joseph Carter headed an effort to have ABAC recognized in the State Senate that morning, and Representatives Austin Scott and Jay Roberts arranged for a recognition ceremony in the State House later the same morning. Bridges and George T. Smith both spoke at the two ceremonies. They were surrounded by legislators who were ABAC alumni.

The entire ABAC group then went to Governor Sonny Perdue's office for a group photo. Those representing ABAC included President David Bridges, Vice President for Academic Affairs Niles Reddick, Vice President for Student Affairs Gail Dillard, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs John Clemens, Chief Information Officer Chrystle Ross, ABAC Alumni Association President Joy Carter, ABAC Ambassadors President Ashton Harper, First Lady Kim Bridges, Chief Advancement Officer Melvin Merrill, Director of Grants and Development Betty McCorvey, Public Relations Assistant Ashley Williamson, and Public Relations Director Mike Chason.

It was a great day for ABAC under the Gold Dome! The event served as a prelude for a terrific week of the Centennial Celebration on Feb. 18-22, 2008.

The Celebration Week began on Feb. 18 with a breakfast in the Donaldson Dining Hall for the entire faculty and staff. It continued at noon on that day with the slicing of a birthday cake in Moultrie for all students at ABAC on the Square. Kay Powell, Director of ABAC on the Square, arranged for an impressive ceremony.

More birthday cakes were needed on Feb. 19 when ABAC students were served cake in the dining hall. Also on that day, Bridges spoke to the ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees at their quarterly meeting and did a live WTIF radio show with Chason. The students enjoyed a

Centennial Celebration parade around campus arranged by Dean of Students Bernice Hughes. Singer Corey Smith entertained over 1,200 spectators in the John Hunt Auditorium of the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center that evening.

On Feb. 20, 2008, the big moment arrived with a brilliant blue sky on a perfect 70-degree day. Exactly 100 years earlier, a total of 27 students had walked up the steps of Tift Hall for their first day of class at the Second District A&M School.

One century later, ABAC had a breakfast for retired faculty and staff, a presentation in Howard Auditorium featuring a fantastic documentary on the college's first 100 years by Cindy Barber from Media Services, a tribute to the college from George T. Smith, a speech by President Bridges which addressed the first century and the century to come, recognition of former presidents at the Presidential Plaza Dedication, and free rides on a hot air balloon. Mike Vollmer was the only former president to return but he was joined by former interim presidents Dr. Frank Thomas, Tom Call, and Dr. Homer Day.

ABAC alumnus Steven Meeks read a resolution in Howard Auditorium commending ABAC on its 100th birthday from United States Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson. Meeks works for Chambliss in his Atlanta office. A resolution was also received from United States Congressman Jim Marshall which was read on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. ABAC was also honored by resolutions from the City of Tifton and the Tift County Board of Commissioners.

That evening, Don Coates, Dr. Susan Roe, and Woody Leonard directed the ABAC Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, Jazz Choir and Dixie Stallions Dixieland Band in a wonderful concert featuring "100 Years of Musical Memories" in Gressette Gym. Following the concert, an awe-inspiring fireworks display took place over Lake Baldwin in front of the ABAC Lakeside complex. Fireworks watchers were even treated to an eclipse of the moon after the fireworks had faded away.

On Feb. 21, President Bridges and Chason addressed the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce luncheon on the 100th birthday celebration. Alumni Director Nancy Coleman and Athletics Director Alan Kramer coordinated a dinner for the first ever ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. Chason conceived the idea for the Hall of Fame as a part of the 100th birthday celebration in a planning session with Williamson in November, 2007.

Six legends from the ABAC athletics program were recognized and presented crystal stallions between games of the ABAC-South Georgia Tech basketball matchups in Gressette Gym. Named to the first Hall of Fame were Orion Mitchell, Bruce Gressette, Thomas Cheney, Phillip Simpson, Norman "Red" Hill, and Milena Stanoytcheva. Mitchell, Gressette, Cheney, and Stanoytcheva were named to the Hall posthumously. The state runner-up team from 1958 was also recognized at halftime of the men's game that evening.

On Feb. 22, the Centennial Celebration Week ended on the front steps of Tift Hall where ABAC student Sam Webb explained how ABAC students constructed ABAC's very own time capsule. Agriculture and Forest Resources Division faculty members John Franklin and Ray Lundy directed the design and construction of the capsule. The time capsule will be placed in the remodeled Tift Hall to be opened on Feb. 20, 2108. The event ended when faculty members, staff members, administrators, and students gathered on the steps of Tift Hall to release 100 balloons into the gray south Georgia sky as a salute to the next 100 years of ABAC.

ABAC took a step toward the future on March 28-30, 2008 when a design team from the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design came to Tifton for the weekend to come up with a new design for the front of campus to include the three historic buildings of Tift, Lewis, and Herring halls. All three of the 100-year-old buildings are now vacant and awaiting rehabilitation.

The Centennial Celebration continued on Homecoming weekend on April 3-5 when Alumni Relations Director Nancy Coleman directed a jam-packed schedule which featured

ABAC alumni from different decades adding candles to a gigantic birthday cake during a luncheon in Gressette Gym. The evening hours featured “Jukebox Saturday Night” and fireworks over Lake Baldwin. Former interim president Jim Burran returned for the Homecoming luncheon.

Copies of the “100 Years of ABAC Memories” book were sold for the first time at Homecoming. The book was edited by Mike Chason and designed by Ashley Williamson. President Bridges and ABAC Alumni Association President Joy Carter sealed the time capsule during the Homecoming luncheon.

ABAC alumni were in the news in the spring of 2008 when Michael Johns, known as Michael Lee when he was an ABAC student in 1998, finished as one of the finalists in the nationwide “American Idol” competition. Another alumnus, Boo Weekley, won \$990,000 when he captured the title in the PGA Verizon Heritage golf tournament at Hilton Head, S.C., for the second year in a row.

The ABAC Cattleman’s Association won the prestigious “Chapter of the Year” award for the state of Georgia. Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks is the advisor for the chapter. Coach Alan Kramer and the Fillies’ tennis team won their 15th consecutive state title behind the outstanding play of freshman Monika Lalewicz, who went on to win the national championship at #1 singles. She was named the NJCAA Player of the Year. The Stallions’ Paul Fitzgerald was named men’s Player of the Year. Fitzgerald led the Stallions to a third place finish in the national tournament.

For the first time ever, two juniors were elected by the student body to lead the SGA when Nate Carney was elected president, and Dan Pennington was elected vice-president. U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss was the spring graduation speaker. He congratulated ABAC on its very successful first 100 years.

ABAC and Georgia Southwestern State University announced a joint agreement to offer junior and senior level classes in a bachelor’s degree in Resource Management at ABAC in May,

2008. Southwestern also offers junior and senior level classes in Management, Accounting, and Early Childhood Education at ABAC.

President Bridges and his wife, Kim, accepted the Arts Citizen of the Year award for ABAC from the Tift County Arts Council. Governor Sonny Perdue announced that ABAC will receive \$6,000,000 in funding in the 2008-09 state budget toward the rehabilitation of the three original buildings on the front of the campus.

Jessica Kalina, Colton Farrow, and Tanner Newhouse were named as the first three recipients of the Presidential Scholarships at ABAC in May, 2008.

ABAC began the 2008-09 academic year on July 1 with the news of a statewide five per cent budget cut, amounting to almost \$900,000 for the College. ABAC's first response to the cut was leaving vacant positions unfilled. Two of those unfilled spots belonged to the two basketball coaches since Todd Sheppard had resigned to go into the business world, and Julie Conner had resigned to take the head girls' basketball job at Tift County High School. President Bridges announced on July 14 that ABAC was dropping both its men's and women's basketball programs.

"The final decision and its timing was made because of three reasons," Bridges said. "Eliminating two of the eight intercollegiate athletic programs provided much needed financial relief for the remaining programs, without coaches we couldn't run a program, and by not filling the two positions we could maintain the flexibility to fill higher priority academic positions and meet forthcoming budget cuts."

That left the College with six intercollegiate sports including soccer, softball and tennis for women, and baseball, golf, and tennis for the men.

ABAC alumna Cathy Cox was inaugurated as president of Young Harris College on July 26, 2008. Cox, the former Georgia Secretary of State, was an ABAC classmate of Dr. Bridges.

Nancy Coleman retired after 23 years of service as the only fulltime Director of Alumni Relations in the history of ABAC on July 31, 2008. Keith Barber was named Chief Development Officer at ABAC on Aug. 1, 2008.

Karla Heath-Sands and the Reflections provided the entertainment for the first Evening For ABAC on Sept. 18, 2008. College Advancement Officer Melvin Merrill said the event previously known as Dollars for ABAC Scholars had changed its scope “to provide greater benefit to the scholarship program at ABAC.” Dollars For Scholars had a 36-year run at ABAC, featuring such top name entertainment as Trisha Yearwood, Roy Clark, Ray Stevens, Debbie Reynolds, and many more.

A study commissioned by the Board of Regents showed that ABAC had a total economic impact of over \$237 million on Tifton and the surrounding area during 2007. Dr. Bridges said the economic impact figure more than doubled since 2001.

Ashley Williamson headed a design team to design new logos and a new stallion for the college. A total of 3,600 students were enrolled for the 2008 fall semester.

Alumnus Boo Weekley helped lead the United States to victory in the Ryder Cup matches. He later donated \$30,000 to the college through the Play Golf America University.

Tanya Rafferty was selected for the first four-year scholarship in the history of ABAC. She will receive a Regents’ Foundation Scholarship for the next four years. Rafferty was later selected as one of two students to be featured in a video at the annual Board of Regents Gala on March 28, 2009.

ABAC Police Chief Bryan Golden announced a new emergency messaging system called Connect-Ed, which was tested for the first time on Oct. 22, 2008. The College used the system several times during the year to reach students when severe weather threatened the campus.

ABAC was selected for a Rapid Process Improvement project by the Governor’s Office of Customer Service in the fall of 2008. The nine-month project to benefit students in the

enrollment and financial aid process was headed up on the campus by Dr. Chrystle Ross and Diane Kilgore.

Katrina Duncan-Marshalleck scored an all time record of 26 goals for the Fillies' soccer team, which finished with a best ever record of 13-6 in the 2008 season. Keegan Westberry was crowned Ms. ABAC 2009 on Nov. 11, 2008. A new design on the ABAC web site went live for the first time on Dec. 1, 2008.

Wasdon Graydon, ABAC's Director of Sponsored Programs and the Minority Advising Program, was the fall graduation speaker. Graydon, an ABAC alumnus (Class of 1970), closed out the 100th birthday celebration year. Lum Roberts and Duane Weeks from Sodexo put up new pole banners on the campus with the new "Georgia's State College of Choice" logo in December, 2008.

Director of Institutional Research Donna Miller passed away unexpectedly on January 4, 2009. She was an ABAC alumnus who had served in her Institutional Research position since July 1, 1993.

The second annual ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame event was held on February 13, 2009 when Ellen Vickers, Newell "Sarge" Dorsey, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., Dorsey Brooks, and the national championship men's tennis team of 1984 were inducted in an impressive ceremony in the Grand Lobby of ABAC Lakeside. The inductees were then recognized on the tennis court during an ABAC tennis match.

President Bridges announced that ABAC's academic curriculum will now be divided into six schools of study including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Nursing and Health Sciences, Human Sciences, Liberal Arts, Science and Mathematics, and Business effective April 1, 2009. Deans selected for the schools included Dr. Tim Marshall, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Wanda Golden, Nursing and Health Sciences; Dr. Darby Sewell, Human Sciences; Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Liberal Arts; Dr. Ray Barber, Science and Mathematics; and Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Business.

The ABAC student newspaper, "The Stallion," was again named the best in the state of Georgia by the Georgia College Press Association in February, 2009. Dr. Eric Cash serves as the advisor for the newspaper.

Junior Chapman was selected as Mr. ABAC at the 18th annual competition. Governor Sonny Perdue named ABAC Police Chief Bryan Golden to the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council. Michael Arena was selected as the first Presidential Scholar for 2009-10.

Alumni were honored at the newly-titled Celebrate ABAC weekend on March 5-7. The weekend replaced the traditional Homecoming weekend, which was usually in April.

Dr. Eddie Seagle took eight students to China on March 12-27, 2009 to present a program on golf course planning, construction and maintenance at the Nansha Golf Club and Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, Peoples Republic of China. All the students were enrolled in the new bachelor's degree in turfgrass and golf course management. Seagle was presented a Customer Service Award from Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue on May 28 for his role in the expedition.

Under a brilliant blue sky, ABAC unveiled its bachelor's degree in Rural Studies on March 23, 2009. President Bridges and Vice President Reddick talked about the degree in front of a backdrop of a cotton wagon and two mules on loan from the Georgia Agrirama. The first class for the program will be on August 18, 2009.

In March, 2009, ABAC received a \$76,425 Fulbright-Hays Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Fifteen educators learned more about the people and culture of Brazil on June 4-July 3. ABAC faculty making the trip included Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Lorie Felton, Alan Kramer, Dr. Brian Ray, and Saj Rashti. Rashti coordinated the grant application.

Tifton ophthalmologist Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra, donated the clubhouse at Forest Lakes Golf Club to the ABAC Foundation in March, 2009 to complete the gift they started in 2001 with the donation of the nine-hole Forest Lakes Golf Club.

Coach Alan Kramer's Fillies won their 16th consecutive NJCAA Region XVII women's

tennis title at the Red Hill Tennis Center on April 25, 2009. The Stallions also captured the Region XVII crown behind the play of MVP Rasid Winklaar. ABAC's Monika Lalewicz was the MVP for the women for the second year in a row. Lalewicz finished second in the national tournament at #1 singles but received National Player of the Year honors for the second consecutive year. She was trying to become the first women's player at ABAC to win back-to-back national titles since Milena Stanoytcheva in 1999-2000. Matt Holland won the national championship at #6 singles for the Stallions, who finished third in the national tournament.

Director of Enrollment Services Donna Webb reported that ABAC had its highest spring semester enrollment in the history of the College with 3,234 students during the 2009 spring term.

Bachelor's degrees were awarded at ABAC for the first time at the graduation ceremony on May 7, 2009. Edwin Glover, Richard Irvin, Garrett Jones, and Joshua Lanier were the first bachelor's degree recipients. ABAC alumnus Jim Sparks was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Andrea Willis retired on June 1, 2009 after 35 years as a faculty member and division chair at ABAC. She was best known as the director for the Fabulous Golddusters dance team for 26 years. The Golddusters performed in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama on behalf of the college.

The history of ABAC continues to move forward.

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June 26, 2009

Edited by Michael D. Chason

